Case 2:21-cv-00455-6-WTL Poorvert $SH^{-02/01/21}$ Page 1 of 13

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS						
Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc.				Boro Developers, Inc. d/b/a Boro Construction and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Somerset, NJ				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Number	r)		Attorneys (If Known)					
Matthew L. Erlanger, Esq. (306855), Cohen Seglias									
	, 32n FI., Philadelphi	a, PA 19103							
(215) 564-1700 II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (D) (V2)	0 P 0 I		 	DINCI	DAI DADTIES	DI WYZU I		- DI :
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		ly) RTS	Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions. FORFEITURE/PENALTY BANKRUPTCY OTHER STATUTES						
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120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	F ₆₀	of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other	423	Withdrawal 28 USC 157	376 Qui Ta		C
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150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury				OPERTY RIGHTS Copyrights	410 Antitru 430 Banks		ng
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210 Land Condemnation	440 Other Civil Rights	Habeas Corpus:		1 Employee Retirement			893 Enviro	nmental M	latters
220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	441 Voting 442 Employment	463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate		Income Security Act		DERAL TAX SUITS Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	895 Freedo Act	m of Infor	mation
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 28 U.S.C. 1332 Brief description of ca	use:							
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				EMAND \$ 31,684.01		CHECK YES only in JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in	n complai	
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER									
DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD									
February 1, 2021 /s/ Matthew L. Erlanger									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY									
RECEIPT # AM	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUD	OGE		

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" П. in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked. Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. **Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.
- **Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes. V.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

Note:

This Designation Form must be <u>signed</u> before submission to the Clerk's Office *or a case* number will not be assigned.

Case 2:21-cv-00455-CN/FED STOCKES DISTRICT GENURE/01/21 Page 4 of 13 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 3311 U.S. 22, North Branch, NJ 08876							
Address of Defendant: 400 Feheley Drive, King of Prussia, PA 19406/ 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116							
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 300 Longfellow Road, Wyncote, PA 19095							
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:							
Case Number: Ju	dge: Date Terminated:	Date Terminated:					
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:							
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year yes No reviously terminated action in this court?							
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No Pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?							
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?							
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights Yes No No							
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is / is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.							
DATE: 02/01/2021	PA 306855	_					
Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)							
CIVIL: (Place a √in one category only)							
CIVIL. (Hace a vin one category only)							
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:						
	ther Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): 7. Products Liability 8. Products Liability — Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify):	_					
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

VOLLERS EXCAVATING &	:	
CONSTRUCTION, INC.	:	
3311 U.S. 22	:	
North Branch, NJ 08876	:	
	:	NO
Pla	aintiff, :	
V	:	
V.	•	
BORO DEVELOPERS, INC. d/l	b/a :	
BORO CONSTRUCTION	:	
400 Feheley Drive	:	
King of Prussia, PA 19406	:	
and	; ;	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURAN 175 Berkeley Street	NCE COMPANY :	
Boston, MA 02116,	:	
De	: efendants. :	
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COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc. ("Vollers"), by and through its undersigned counsel, Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman, P.C., hereby files this Complaint against Boro Developers, Inc. d/b/a Boro Construction ("Boro") and Liberty Mutual Insurance Company ("Liberty Mutual"), and in support thereof avers the following:

Parties

- Vollers is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business located at 3311 U.S. 22, North Branch, New Jersey 08876.
- 2. Upon information and belief, Boro is a Pennsylvania corporation with its principal place of business located at 400 Feheley Drive, King of Prussia, Pennsylvania 19406.

3. Upon information and belief, Liberty Mutual is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal place of business located at 175 Berkeley Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

Jurisdiction and Venue

- 4. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because there is complete diversity of citizenship between the parties and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this claim occurred herein.

Background

- 6. On or about March 9, 2016, the Cheltenham Township School District (the "School District") awarded to Boro the general construction contract and the electrical construction contract on a project known as "Additions and Alterations to Cedarbrook Middle School" located at 300 Longfellow Road, Wyncote, Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania 19095 (the "Project").
- 7. The School District is a Pennsylvania school district organized and existing under the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 1-101 *et seq.*, with its principal place of business located at 2000 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park, Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania 19027.
- 8. In order for Boro to complete its scope of work on the Project, Boro and Vollers entered into a subcontract entitled Agreement Between Contractor and Subcontractor (the "Subcontract") and dated April 6, 2016, pursuant to which Boro agreed to pay Vollers \$3,467,00.00, and Vollers agreed to perform the site work on the Project, including site clearing; earthwork; trenching, backfilling and compaction; soil erosion and sediment control; hot-mix

asphalt paving; site unit pavers; pavement markings; tennis court surfacing; running track surfacing; athletic equipment and site furnishings; segmented retaining; water distribution; testing and disinfecting water mains; gravity wastewater sewer; sanitary utility sewerage structures; and storm drainage (the "Base Contract Work"). A true and correct copy of the Subcontract is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit A**.

- 9. Under the Pennsylvania Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967, 8 P.S. § 191 *et seq.*, Boro was obligated to furnish a payment bond to the District for the protection of those providing labor and materials to the Project.
- 10. In order to fulfill this statutory obligation, on or about March 9, 2016, Boro and Liberty Mutual entered into Payment Bond No. 019-053-402 (the "Bond"). A true and correct copy of the Bond is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit B**.
- 11. Pursuant to the terms of the Bond, Liberty Mutual agreed to be bound, jointly and severally with Boro, to the obligations to make payment to claimants supplying labor or materials to the Project.
- 12. During its performance of the Work on the Project, Vollers performed extra work at Boro's direction consisting of additional tree protection fence, widening of driveways, adding 100 linear feet of 15" HDPE pipe, additional water line revisions, undercutting unsuitable soil at a retaining wall, backfilling undercuts with onsite material, installing geotextile fabric for undercuts, installing structural fill at undercuts, transporting soils, footing backfills, and performing soil erosion control, the value of which totaled \$62,643.44.
- 13. Additionally, during the course of the Project, Vollers encountered contaminated soils on the Project site, which constituted a differing site condition, for which Vollers is not responsible under the Subcontract.

- 14. As a result of the differing site condition, Vollers was unable to complete its work on the Project in August 2017, as reflected in the Project schedule at the time Vollers executed the Subcontract.
- 15. Moreover, as a result of the differing site condition, Vollers incurred \$433,919.51 in additional labor and material costs.
- 16. Vollers faithfully performed the work of the Subcontract and provided all documentation to receive payment for its work.
- 17. Vollers performed the last of its labor and/or furnished or supplied the material for which it seeks payment on April 23, 2019.
 - 18. Vollers' work was complete and satisfactory.
- 19. Following completion of Vollers' work, amounts remained due and owing on account of the Base Contract Work and the extra work identified above.
- 20. These amounts remained due and owing for more than 90 days after completion of Vollers' work and, accordingly, on June 5, 2020, Vollers submitted a Notice of Claim to Liberty Mutual, seeking payment in the amount of \$1,091,796.13, inclusive of \$436,486.36 in Base Contract Work, the above-referenced amounts for extra work, as well as interest.¹ A true and correct copy of the Notice of Claim is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit C**.
- 21. Following submission of Vollers' Notice of Claim and, specifically, on July 22, 2020, Vollers and Liberty Mutual entered into a tolling agreement to extend the time for Vollers to commence an action on the Bond, which agreement Vollers and Liberty Mutual further extended on October 15, 2020, and January 4, 2021. A true and correct copy of the tolling agreement is

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¹ In the Notice of Claim, Vollers included \$76,034.55 in lost opportunity costs relating to Vollers additional labor and materials on the Project between August 2017 and April 23, 2019. Because these lost opportunity costs do not represent labor and materials incurred in performance of work on the Project, Vollers is removing \$76,034.55 from its damages.

attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit D**. A true and correct copy of the October 15, 2020 email correspondence extending the tolling agreement to December 15, 2020 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit E**. A true and correct copy of the January 4, 2021 email correspondence extending the tolling agreement through January 14, 2021 is attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit F**.

- 22. Based on its terms, within thirty days of the expiration of the tolling agreement, Vollers is obligated to file its complaint seeking payment under the Bond, which obligation Vollers is fulfilling through its filing of the instant complaint. (Ex. D).
- 23. In October 2020, Boro sent Vollers a check for \$201,401.30, reducing the amount due and owing on account of the Base Contract Work to \$235,085.06 (the "Contract Balance").
 - 24. The School District paid Boro in full for the Contract Balance.
- 25. Despite Boro being paid in full for the Contract Balance, both Boro and Liberty have failed and refused to provide payment for any amounts for the labor and materials that Vollers provided to the Project that remain due and owing totaling \$731,648.01, exclusive of interest, fees, and costs.

COUNT I Breach of Contract Vollers v. Boro

- 26. Vollers hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 27. On or about April 6, 2016, Vollers and Boro entered into the Subcontract for Vollers to perform the site work on the Project. (Ex. A).
- 28. Vollers performed all of its work under the Subcontract, including all extra work performed at the direction of Boro, in a good and workmanlike manner and in accordance with the terms of the Subcontract.

- 29. To date, despite Vollers' repeated requests and demands, Boro has failed and refused to pay Vollers for monies owed under the Subcontract.
 - 30. Boro's failure to make payment is in breach of the Subcontract.
- 31. As a direct and proximate result of Boro's breach of the Subcontract, Vollers has sustained damages in the amount of \$731,648.01.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc. hereby respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in its favor and against Defendant Boro Developers, Inc. d/b/a Boro Construction as to Count I of its Complaint in the amount of \$731,648.01 plus interest, costs, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II Unjust Enrichment (In the Alternative to Count I) Vollers v. Boro

- 32. Vollers hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 33. Vollers provided labor, equipment and materials to the Project at the specific request and benefit of Boro.
 - 34. Boro has enjoyed the benefit and use of Vollers' labor, materials and services.
- 35. Boro's retention of costs associated with labor, equipment and materials supplied by Vollers without compensating Vollers for the reasonable value for such items would be unjust.
 - 36. The amount requested by Vollers is reasonable.
- 37. The reasonable value of the labor, materials, equipment and services provided by Vollers to Boro that remains unpaid is \$731,648.01.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc. hereby respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in its favor and against Defendant Boro

Developers, Inc. d/b/a Boro Construction as to Count II of its Complaint in the amount of \$731,648.01 plus interest, costs, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT III Violation of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa.C.S.A. § 3901 *et seq.* <u>Vollers v. Boro</u>

- 38. Vollers hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 39. The School District, the owner of the Project, is a "Government agency" within the meaning of Section 3902 of the Commonwealth Procurement Code, 62 Pa.C.S.A. § 3902 (the "Code").
 - 40. Boro is a "Contractor" as defined by the Code.
 - 41. Vollers is a "Subcontractor" as defined by the Code.
- 42. Despite having received payment from the School District for the Contract Balance, Boro has refused to make payment on account of any portion of the \$235,085.06 for the Base Contract Work due and owing to Vollers.
- 43. Instead, Boro has withheld these amounts without explanation irrespective of Vollers' satisfactory completion of its work on the Project, as evidenced by the School District never having issued any notices of deficiency concerning Vollers' work on the Project.
- 44. Boro's refusal to make payment is in direct violation of the Code and such action is arbitrary, vexatious, and in bad faith.
- 45. Boro's refusal to pay Vollers for all labor and materials that Vollers provided to the Project for which Boro has received payment violates the Code and entitles Vollers to recover

statutory interest on the withheld balance, a penalty in the amount of one percent per month on all such monies improperly withheld, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

- 46. The aforementioned damages will continue to accrue during the pendency of this action.
- 47. Boro's failure to pay Vollers in full for all labor and materials for which payment has been made by the School District is in violation of the Code, entitling Vollers to interest, penalties, and attorneys' fees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc. hereby respectfully requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in its favor and against Defendant Boro Developers, Inc. d/b/a Boro Construction as to Count III of its Complaint in the amount of \$235,085.06 plus interest, penalty in the amount of 1% per month, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper

COUNT IV Breach of Bond Obligation Vollers v. Liberty Mutual

- 48. Vollers hereby incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 49. The Bond obligates Liberty Mutual to satisfy Boro's payment obligations to Vollers.
- 50. Liberty Mutual is obligated to satisfy Boro's payment obligations to Vollers because Vollers has completed its performance and otherwise complied with the terms and conditions of the Subcontract and the Bond.
- 51. It has been more than 90 days since Vollers' last date of work, and Boro has not made payment to Vollers.

52. As a subcontractor to Boro that provided labor and materials to the Project, Vollers

is a claimant under the Bond and an intended beneficiary under the Bond both according to the

terms of the Bond and the Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967.

53. By letter dated June 5, 2020, Vollers provided Liberty Mutual with notice of its

claim and a statement of the amounts due.

54. The Notice of Claim set forth Vollers' claim against Boro for labor and materials

provided to the Project on account of which \$731,648.01 remains due and owing, exclusive of

interest, fees, and costs.

55. Liberty Mutual has refused to make payment for \$731,648.01 for labor and

materials that Vollers provided to the Project.

56. As a direct and proximate cause of Liberty Mutual's conduct, Vollers has sustained

damages in the amount of \$731,648.01, plus interest and costs.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Vollers Excavating & Construction, Inc. hereby respectfully

requests that this Honorable Court enter judgment in its favor and against Defendant Liberty

Mutual Insurance Company as to Count IV of its Complaint in the amount of \$731,648.01 plus

interest, costs, and such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN SEGLIAS PALLAS

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